Dorchester. July 11th 1839.
Thursday morning.

Dear Deborah,

I am for a wonder, writing in school; that is, school is just finishing and the rain is pouring down, so that I cannot go home, & I have such a desire to improve all my time that I finally concluded to take this awful crumpled sheet & begin to write to you. I did up a package to go to you by Bradburn on Sunday night. Monday I came out of town & kept all day as usual, put the last finishing stitches to my grass cloth. Tuesday I came from school, oh, so tired, I did not see how I could keep the term out. I laid down long before dark, & there I lay till 9, vainly trying to get strength. Wednesday you will remember was the day of the Boston Females. I had previously arranged with Mr Wilder that I should hear my classes in the morning, most of them, in order to get through so as to go to Boston in the afternoon. I stayed at school till near 1 & then hurried home, bolted my dinner & a little after 1 found myself in the Omnibus. I had a warm, uncomfortable ride, & reached Maria's about 2. I found Mrs Child, Caroline, Lucia & Emma all on the ground. M. Chapman soon came & we proceeded to the Marlboro'. It was a full meeting - all the feelers "punctual as lovers to the moment sworn." Catherine the first on the ground. Mary Parker looks fearfully [illegible] up, as it were & Catherine but poorly. The Balls bear things better than any body. Mary read a Psalm & prayed & Miss Gould read the Minutes which were very correct. L. Parker then brought up petitioning and Maria stated that the Mass. Soc. had made arrangements to see to all that. Miss P. opposed most violently, that is, ~~[illegible]~~ & insisted upon it that "no matter what the Mass. Soc. had done" we should go right over the same ground again. Her folly, impertinence & rudeness while this was going on were truly remarkable - ~~[illegible]~~ - She talked I think, more like a fool than I ever heard her insisting upon it in her most Pleasant Street way that to send two petitions to every town, & when Maria said she should like to have the list of names compared in order to have them sent to different women, she manifested the greatest opposition. I offered a resolution that, the Mass Soc: having ~~[illegible]~~ assumed the work of petitioning in the State, we

A terrible piece of scandal has occurred. Dr Fay of Charlestown it is discovered has been living in adultery all his life time, & has had a child now sworn to him. A great uproar about it. This is common fame. I know no more. Collins has carried his favorite measure of the Grade through the Board.

Yrs ever Anne.

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would give the principal part of our labour *as a Society* to the city, & to shew that we did not undervalue the circular issued at Phil'a we would have that published in all the papers that would give it insertion. It was voted down after much discussion & the Soc. agreed to go right on with the work the Mass had done, for the Mass petitions are all printed and they might infer from what Maria said that the work was in progress. Maria Caroline & I spoke against this as did Mrs Southwick – M. Parker. Catherine & the Balls & Mrs Shipley went warmly against the idea of giving up the glory of petitioning. – July 15. Monday eve. I will take up just where I left off. After much talk they voted to go right on with the work the Mass. Soc. had done or was doing. Allusions were then made to the duty of working for the Fair. Previous to this, however, the city was divided into wards & Maria took the one she lived in & Caroline & took 8. We thought we should be there Saturdays & L. & E. could help. Miss Clough moved that the address issued by the Committee of the Fair be accepted by the Soc. Maria then came forth in great strength. She branded the whole affair as fraudulent. Miss Parker said it was what was done the last year. M. denied it. She said "even the address last year was issued as a Com. address, by no means as the address of the Society." Miss P. said "They thought in the exigency of the case, they were at liberty to make use of any means to aid the Fair". myself "you were at liberty to make use of any *honest* means." Miss P. "Of course, I meant only honest means" good little me. "This was a *dishonest* means". Catherine thought that as the address agreed in spirit with the votes of the Society it might lawfully be termed the Society's address. All the time of this battle Mary looked like death. Finally the votes was taken & the address accepted 4, 3 for it, to 18 against it. The yeas & nays after a sort ~~was~~ were taken & will probably appear in the next Liberator. It was on the whole, the bloodiest battle we have fought yet! The last thing, Maria rose to address the Society & M. P. told her there was no motion before the meeting. Maria said she would make one for the purpose of speaking to it. She moved that the course pursued by the Society was highly detrimental to the interests of the cause, or some thing of that sort, she then warned the Society faithfully & concluded by assuring them that she never meant to leave them, while a wreck remained, but earnestly to labour for their recovery. After the meeting, Maria & Caroline stopped & had a private flare up with the Balls. Caroline said nobody could have behaved better than the Balls did. They preserved the greatest imperturbability & kept their tempers, though they walked straight up to the mark. They think it not impossible that the Balls would like to be dragged out of the pit, but M. is determined to let them get out by their own unassisted efforts, if at all. After the battle, we all, with Mrs Child, Henry being at N.Y. went to Chauncy Pl & took tea. My tooth fell to aching, upon which C. & I wended our way to Dr Harwoods & I had it out. The Dr almost killed me. I had previously arranged to go out to Dorchester in the Plymouth stage, so Caroline and I kept awake all night to be ready for it & at ½ past 3 I rose. At 4 the stage came. I found Creep mouse inside, but only a little namby pamby talk took place between us. 'Poor thing', it is quite a jaunt out for she & me to come in town. The stage carried me as far as those stone posts on the Lower road, the scene of our downfall I believe; it is but a little way from Dr Harris' meeting house, probably a mile & a half from Mrs Lyons. I thought it as queer to find myself between 4 & 5 in the morning walking about in Dorchester, as you did to find yourself & your things packed up with a young Episcopal minister. I assure you, I felt pretty faltering when I reached Mrs L's. What with the walk, & what with the tooth, & with keeping awake I looked like - I was going to use women's simile, but to speak more elegantly like Geraldine "a weary maiden scarce alive." But I managed to stand it out till Friday night, when according to previous arrangement, Aunt Mary & Emma arrived, Aunt M. having been on to Roxbury & got E. We had a good ride home. Aunt Priscilla seems very poorly - & I in my inmost soul do not think that any thing but Grandma's death could save her life. Grandma is rather poorly, but on the whole as comfortable as when you left. I saw your gloves safe to the folks. Ma says she shall make her capes herself. Aunt Mary says if you knew how much she has had to do you would excuse her writing, but she will, without fail begin to night. Emma says she will write soon. I called at Grandma's Hunts, all well there. I saw Lucretia's last letter which was short, because she wrote in haste. She does not wish Henry to come for her till next Oct. So I suppose he will not go. Sam Reed has bought the land, on which his blacksmith shop stands. Sunday, Henry, Caroline & the striped pig made their appearance. The poor pig behaved sweetly, but felt in a strange land, & was tickled to pieces to go back. - I have one bit of news. Sylvia Ammidon's long agony is over. She is engaged to Parker's brother. I guess you have seen him. I think she has done quite well for her, really better than Ange. who by the way voted with the peelers. I believe he is now in the Seminary. Maria Mack is confined - has a daughter a week old. Eliza by name. On Saturday last Chauncy Pl. that is Mary & her mother & Maria, Caroline, Lucia & Lizzy went out to

Mt Auburn and on their way back Caroline called at Mrs Marks. She was very cozy had got through all well, now 21 boarders. The Owens pretty well. This morning Aunt Mary brought me over here & Caroline Emma to Roxbury. She went into town & saw M. She is going down to Salem Wed afternoon to address the Female Soc. there. She did not think of going but finding that notice had been given in all the churches thought it her duty. M. Chapman somewhat thinks of going with her. Maria has lately had a most lovely letter from Lucretia Mott. "However" says she "I may wish to hide myself till this calamity be over past I cannot do so." I must assure thee

Dorchester Ms
July 16

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Miss Deborah Weston
Care of James H. Howland Esq.
New Bedford
Mass^tts

July 11th 1839

[illegible] Dorchester another quarter, Edward pays part of my [illegible] in Groton. It will be about the 20th of Aug. I fear a [illegible]. But whether I stay here [illegible] is doubtful. Henry will go on to W. T. at Commencement. We think it best for him to take

of my sympathy in your trials" She then goes on to say she would rather Whittier would do nothing than do as he has done lately. She seems to think of going to England to the next great A. S. Convention. A most lovely letter has been received from Stoneham. Paulina Gerry knows perfectly what she is about. I suppose you know that the siege is raised at Maria's by the arrival of M. A. Knox. The house is like another place. I shall go to Boston next week or rather next Friday & will write you from there. I got your letter by Mr Congdon when I went in to the meeting. I suppose you were disappointed at not hearing by him, but we had written previously by Mr Bradburn. I hope you have got the package by him. Did he call? or how did you get it. Write, so that I shall hear from you when in town on Sat. next. I wrote to Dr F. last week & told him that

Ms. A. 9. 2. 11, 134